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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Thirty-fifth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 596th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Wednesday, 27 March 1996, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MIKULKA (Czech Republic)

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CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (*continued*) (A/AC.105/607 and Corr.1; A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.3, A/AC.105/C.2/L.197/Rev.1; A/50/20)

1. **Mr. NOVOSELOV** (Ukraine) commented on the two working papers before the Subcommittee, both of them drafted as a General Assembly resolution with an attached declaration: the paper sponsored by 12 developing countries (A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.3) and the document produced by Germany and France (A/AC.105/C.2/L.197/Rev.1). During the current session it had proved possible to reduce the gap between the positions of Member States on the subject. He commended the ideas contained in both working papers. However, it was important to develop a single agreed text of a resolution with a declaration attached.

2. With that in mind, he suggested that the text in the 12-country draft should be used as the basis for the resolution, since it contained a reference to the relevant international legal norms. However, it was unnecessary to link the adoption of the declaration to the report of the Committee, since that report would reflect all aspects of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, not merely the question of space benefits. That being so, he suggested that the composite draft resolution should incorporate the third and fourth preambular paragraphs of the resolution in the Franco-German working paper.

3. As to the declaration, he preferred the latter text, in part because of its emphasis on the concept of equity. However, he would prefer to delete the reference, in section III, paragraph 1, to the provisions of international law. There was sufficient reference to those provisions in section I, paragraph 1. Moreover, the two-country text failed to mention the need to preserve the space environment, referred to in paragraph 7 of the 12-country draft. In the latter text, paragraph 6 contained a better definition of the manner in which international cooperation should be conducted. He therefore suggested that the text of that paragraph should replace the first sentence of section II, paragraph 1, of the Franco-German paper, but that its second sentence should be retained. Section III of the Franco-German draft, entitled "Areas of cooperation", contained a list of activities involving the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Although there was no need for an exhaustive list, a reference might be added in subparagraph (a) to disasters of technological origin. Paragraph 3 of section III should be redrafted, since as it stood it could be interpreted as meaning that the fundamental task of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was to serve as a forum for the exchange of information. Finally, in order to improve the structure of the consolidated text, he suggested the introduction of a reference to the objectives of international cooperation, so as to reflect the proposals contained in paragraph 5 of the 12-country draft.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.